

Sarasota, FL -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) will sponsor a Veterans' Appreciation Fair in Sarasota on Saturday. Buchanan will recognize area veterans and service members and promote the many benefits available to them and their families.

"Our nation's veterans have played an important role in protecting our freedom," said Buchanan. "I encourage people to attend this event to help honor them for their service. Veterans will also be provided with information regarding available resources and assistance to ensure they get the health care and benefits they have earned."

The Veterans' Appreciation Fair will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at Sarasota Military Academy. The school is located at 801 North Orange Avenue in Sarasota.

Buchanan and Bay Pines VA Health Care Director Wallace Hopkins will participate in an opening ceremony at 10:00 a.m. Several organizations will be available to assist veterans including:

- The VA to provide health screenings and information about its many programs;
- Veterans Service Organizations to help veterans and their families apply for benefits;
- Jobs Etc. to provide information about employment programs for veterans; and
- The Small Business Administration to provide information about small business programs for veterans.

Veterans should bring their DD214 and a photo I.D. to the event.

For more information or to RSVP, call the Congressman's Sarasota office at 941.951.6643.